



January 3, 2005

**Providence man admits gun possession,
faces sentencing as an Armed Career Criminal**

Luis Lorian, of Providence, pleaded guilty today to being a felon in possession of a firearm, admitting that he had a handgun on him when he fled from a Providence Police officer last February.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the guilty plea, which Lorian entered before U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith in U.S. District Court, Providence. The government has filed notice that it considers Lorian, who has three prior drug-trafficking convictions, to be an Armed Career Criminal, which would subject him to a minimum 15-year federal prison sentence.

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen G. Dambruch said that, had the case gone to trial, the government would have proven that, on February 5, 2004, Providence Patrolman David Moscarelli saw Lorian bolt from the passenger side of a station wagon on Appleton Street and toss away a gun while fleeing.

Patrolman Moscarelli had signaled for the station wagon to pull over for a traffic infraction when Lorian ran from the vehicle. Officer Moscarelli chased Lorian on foot, subdued him after a struggle, and retrieved the gun that he had tossed away, a loaded Smith and Wesson .357 caliber revolver.

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The statutory maximum penalty for being a felon in possession of a firearm is ten years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. However, the government maintains that, because he has three prior convictions for drug trafficking, Lorianio qualifies as an Armed Career Criminal, which carries a minimum sentence of 15 years in prison. Lorianio, 34, most recently of 57 Birkshire Street, is detained pending sentencing, which is scheduled for April 1.

Providence Police and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** investigated the case. A joint review of the case by the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office resulted in the federal charge. Assistant U.S. Attorney Dambruch is prosecuting it as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes.

Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 550 years in federal prison.

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